

Serial N . 09/125,888, filed August 27, 1998  
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Informal response for the Examiner's consideration- March 24, 2003

Hundred and Ten Dollars (\$410.00) to cover the extension fee as required by 37 C.F.R.

§§1.17(a)(2) and 1.136(a).

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Amend claim 1 and 5 as follows:

1. (Thrice amended) A method of using a laminate as a barrier material against ethylene oxide gas, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a storage package which contains a medical instrument having a hydrophilic outer surface coating, and a sealed container which contains a sterile wetting fluid for wetting the hydrophilic coating of the instrument,

wherein the container is formed of a laminate having an inner layer comprising a polyolefin, an outer layer comprising a polyester, a polyolefin or a polyamide and an intermediate layer comprising a silicon oxide, and

wherein the laminate is substantially impermeable to ethylene oxide gas; and  
exposing the storage package to ethylene oxide gas.

5. (Thrice amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the medical device is a urethral catheter for bladder drainage.

**REMARKS**

**I. Amendments**

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the embodiment of canceled claim 19.

Support is provided by the specification as a whole, and at page 5, lines 1-7. Claim 5 has been amended to recite that the medical device is a urethral catheter. Support for amended claim 5 is